



Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

2024 Request for Proposal

General Information

Proposal ID: 2024-231

Proposal Title: Keep it Clean Winterized Sanidump Stations

Project Manager Information

Name: Robyn Dwight

Organization: Upper Red Lake Area Association

Office Telephone: (218) 556-5844

Email: robyndwight1@gmail.com

Project Basic Information

Project Summary: Infrastructure for the safe collection and removal of raw sewage/waste from Shelter holding tanks throughout the winter fishing season.

Funds Requested: \$200,000

Proposed Project Completion: June 30, 2025

LCCMR Funding Category: Small Projects (H)

Secondary Category: Water Resources (B)

Project Location

What is the best scale for describing where your work will take place?

Region(s): NW

What is the best scale to describe the area impacted by your work?

Region(s): NW

When will the work impact occur?

During the Project and In the Future

Narrative

Describe the opportunity or problem your proposal seeks to address. Include any relevant background information.

Our project will provide winterized sanidump stations at five access points, which will significantly reduce the phosphates, nitrates and other toxic sewage waste being deposited on the ice, under the ice and along the shorelines of Upper Red Lake. DNR Creel survey data shows more than a 300% increase in fishing pressure from 1976-2000 during the ice-angling season. This trend reflects similar trends on other Ice Belt Lakes, and coincides with the introduction and increasing popularity of RV styled wheelhouses. Last year, Upper Red Lake experienced 2.2 million angler hours and over 70,000 angler visits, of which, greater than 65% were overnight stays in wheelhouse shelters. RV styled wheelhouses now have heated black and grey water holding tanks with a 30 gallon capacity on average. Presently, there are no winterized dump stations in Northwestern Minnesota to accommodate this phenomenon. We have testimony and evidence of multiple instances of sewage being released onto Upper Red Lake and along the roadways and shorelines every winter. Everyone at Upper Red Lake wan

What is your proposed solution to the problem or opportunity discussed above? Introduce us to the work you are seeking funding to do. You will be asked to expand on this proposed solution in Activities & Milestones.

Our research and observations show that winterized sani-dumps will be best utilized if they are in close proximity to the lake access points with the greatest wheelhouse traffic. Last winter's human waste removal pilot program was successful in removing twenty-three tons of human waste, ten tons of which were toilet bags. This program does not include the solid waste removed by resort owners at their own cost. Our education and awareness campaign instructed visitors as to where the dumpsters were located and how to use them. We also stated that there are no winterized RV dumps in the area, or in the northern half of Minnesota and that visitors must dispose of their sewage somewhere else. Lake businesses, access owners, residents, and visitors agree that we need winter resources to manage a winter waste problem. We propose to provide winterized sani-dump stations, with insulated holding tanks and washable concrete pads, in accordance with state regulations, educational signage, and sponsors' logos to promote partner participation. As the dump stations come into use, managers will gather data as part of a full report, understanding that this is a long overdue and sustainable response to a complex problem.

What are the specific project outcomes as they relate to the public purpose of protection, conservation, preservation, and enhancement of the state's natural resources?

Our project has the potential to prevent several tons of untreated sewage from entering the waters of Upper Red Lake during the winter fishing season. Increases in phosphorus and nitrogen contribute to the problems of algae blooms and aquatic invasive species. Pharmaceuticals in human urine negatively impact aquatic life forms. Microplastics from shredded toilet bags also enter the water unnecessarily. Children playing on the ice are vulnerable to piles of discharge hidden under the snow. This is a human health, recreation, natural resources, and fisheries problem. Our project, combined with the measures now in place, will make a real difference.

Activities and Milestones

Activity 1: Grant Administration

Activity Budget: \$30,000

Activity Description:

Provide grant administration, fiscal management, contract management, and reporting at required intervals

Activity Milestones:

Description	Approximate Completion Date
Signed Grant Agreements with Business Owners	September 30, 2024
Fiscal management and reporting completed at required intervals.	June 30, 2025
Project management/oversight for construction of each project site	June 30, 2025

Activity 2: System Construction

Activity Budget: \$152,500

Activity Description:

Activity will include: preparing the site, materials, installation, water and electricity as needed, installing traffic pads, including necessary options for heated water and security lighting, environmental educational signage, and other details per design for an estimated five sites.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Approximate Completion Date
Site Preparation	November 30, 2024
Installation of System	November 30, 2024
Addition of Any Site-Specific Options	November 30, 2024
Final stabilization	June 30, 2025
Educational and instructional signage	June 30, 2025

Activity 3: Technical Services

Activity Budget: \$17,500

Activity Description:

Provide soil testing, design assistance, site assessments, construction inspections, and other technical services as needed throughout the project

Activity Milestones:

Description	Approximate Completion Date
soil testing, site assessments, and design	September 30, 2024
construction inspections	November 30, 2024
technical services as necessary	June 30, 2025

Project Partners and Collaborators

Name	Organization	Role	Receiving Funds
Zachrie Gutknecht, Clean Water Specialist	Beltrami County Soil and Water Conservation District	Fiscal Agent	Yes

Long-Term Implementation and Funding

Describe how the results will be implemented and how any ongoing effort will be funded. If not already addressed as part of the project, how will findings, results, and products developed be implemented after project completion? If additional work is needed, how will this work be funded?

After installation of winterized dump stations, business owners will assume the costs of operation and maintenance. Under our agreement, they will provide information as to usage, benefits, costs, and any problems they encounter in the first five years. Project administrator/coordinator will use this data in our reports. The dump stations will stay in place for the life of the infrastructure. If additional work is needed, funds will be collected through user fees by the business owners.

Project Manager and Organization Qualifications

Project Manager Name: Robyn Dwight

Job Title: President: Upper Red Lake Area Association

Provide description of the project manager's qualifications to manage the proposed project.

As president of the Upper Red Lake Area Association, and local Keep it Clean spokesperson, I am responsible for overseeing the gambling account and general funds of our organization. I have partnered with the Beltrami County Soil and Water Conservation District to successfully apply for grant funding from the Red Lake Watershed District, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, and the Board of Water And Soil Resources to develop and maintain waste removal projects and to provide education and awareness about the problems associated with winter angling and camping on Minnesota's frozen lakes. As a volunteer with the Keep it Clean Initiative, I have established partnerships with stakeholders across the state of Minnesota who share our concerns. I testified before the House Environment and Natural Resources Finance and Policy Committee for HF2745-SF2789 which has bipartisan support, on March 22, 2023. With Keep it Clean partners at Lake of the Woods and Mille Lacs Lake, I have designed and managed a Keep it Clean Facebook page and website to share our initiative, state-wide: keepitcleanmn.org. I maintain records and regularly communicate with stakeholders and partners to ensure there is transparency and full participation in the work we do. As a full-licensed, retired, Special Education Teacher, I also substitute t the local public school when I have time.

Organization: Upper Red Lake Area Association

Organization Description:

The Upper Red Lake Area Association's mission is to promote and enhance the Upper Red Lake Area, and the economic, commercial, and social interests of its inhabitants.

Budget Summary

Category / Name	Subcategory or Type	Description	Purpose	Gen. Ineligible	% Benefits	# FTE	Classified Staff?	\$ Amount
Personnel								
SWCD employee		Fiscal Agent			10%	0.24		\$20,000
Project Coordinator		Oversee project activities and milestones and collaborate with fiscal agent/partner to manage the grant expenditures			5%	0.2		\$10,000
							Sub Total	\$30,000
Contracts and Services								
Larson Environmental Services	Professional or Technical Service Contract	Soil Testing and System Design				0		\$7,500
TBD	Professional or Technical Service Contract	Site Preparation, installation of System, and final stabilization.				0		\$150,000
Beltrami SWCD	Professional or Technical Service Contract	Provide technical services to landowners and the association throughout the duration of the grant.				0.1		\$10,000
TBD	Professional or Technical Service Contract	Design and building of informational signs for dump station.				0		\$2,500
							Sub Total	\$170,000
Equipment, Tools, and Supplies								
							Sub Total	-
Capital Expenditures								
							Sub Total	-

Acquisitions and Stewardship								
							Sub Total	-
Travel In Minnesota								
							Sub Total	-
Travel Outside Minnesota								
							Sub Total	-
Printing and Publication								
							Sub Total	-
Other Expenses								
							Sub Total	-
							Grand Total	\$200,000

Classified Staff or Generally Ineligible Expenses

Category/Name	Subcategory or Type	Description	Justification Ineligible Expense or Classified Staff Request
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Non ENRTF Funds

Category	Specific Source	Use	Status	Amount
State				
			State Sub Total	-
Non-State				
			Non State Sub Total	-
			Funds Total	-

Attachments

Required Attachments

Visual Component

File: [14a857be-398.pdf](#)

Alternate Text for Visual Component

Photograph of sewage discharged on the ice of Upper Red Lake next to a photo of a pristine frozen lake at sunset, with the Keep it Clean logo and messaging below: Be Nice to the Ice. Collect, contain, remove, and dispose of all garbage and human waste. [keepitcleanmn.org...](#)

Financial Capacity

File: [d5e2987d-9bc.pdf](#)

Board Resolution or Letter

Title	File
placeholder pending board meetings with Upper Red Lake Area Association and Beltrami Board of Soil and Water Conservation District	98a417a4-af1.pdf

Optional Attachments

Support Letter, Photos, Media, Other

Title	File
Letter of Support from Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts	20a3de98-e34.pdf

Administrative Use

Does your project include restoration or acquisition of land rights?

No

Does your project have potential for royalties, copyrights, patents, or sale of products and assets?

No

Do you understand and acknowledge IP and revenue-return and sharing requirements in 116P.10?

N/A

Do you wish to request reinvestment of any revenues into your project instead of returning revenue to the ENRTF?

N/A

Does your project include original, hypothesis-driven research?

Yes

Does the organization have a fiscal agent for this project?

Yes, Beltrami County Soil and Water Conservation District

Does your project include the design, construction, or renovation of a building, trail, campground, or other capital asset costing \$10,000 or more?

Yes

Do you propose using an appropriation from the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund to conduct a project that provides children's services, as defined in Minnesota Statutes section 299C.61 Subd.7?

No